

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 309371  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

66011.

DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPM:DJMCCONNELL

APPROVED BY:EUR/RPM:LBRECKON

-----116421 241026Z /17

P 241005Z JAN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 309371

FOL SECSTATE SENT ACTION DUBLIN INFO MOSCOW USNATO BONN  
BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN LONDON LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME THE HAGUE  
GENEVA DEC 29, 1977 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 309371

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PINS, ELAB, EI

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROTEST ON NEUTRON BOMB

REFS: A. USNATO 13089 (DTG 271807Z DEC 77);

B. STATE 306542 (DTG 232201Z DEC 77)

1. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON FOLLOWING TALKING  
POINTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE CONTAINED REFTEL B IN REPLYING  
TO ICTU REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

-- DEPLOYMENT OF ENHANCED RADIATION (ER) WEAPONS WOULD NOT  
REPRESENT AN ESCALATION OF THE ARMS RACE. THESE WEAPONS  
WERE DEVELOPED AS PART OF AN ONGOING PROGRAM OF MODERNI-  
ZATION OF THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES. THE US DEVELOPED THE  
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ER WARHEAD AS A RESPONSE TO THE QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITA-  
TIVE UPGRADING OF THE ARMORED FORCES DEPLOYED BY THE  
SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES IN EASTERN EUROPE, AS WELL AS  
RECENT SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN SOVIET NUCLEAR  
SYSTEMS THAT CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR IN EUROPE.

-- THE DEPLOYMENT OF ER WARHEADS WOULD NOT CHANGE THE

AWESOME NATURE OF ANY DECISION BY THE PRESIDENT TO USE  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THESE WEAPONS WOULD BE PLACED UNDER

THE SAME STRINGENT CONTROLS AS ANY OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPONS.  
THEY ARE NO DIFFERENT IN RANGE OF YIELD THAN WARHEADS  
CURRENTLY IN THE STOCKPILE. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO  
GROUND FOR THE CHARGES THAT DEPLOYMENT OF ER WEAPONS  
WOULD LOWER THE NUCLEAR THRESHHOLD OR THAT IT WOULD  
REPRESENT AN EFFORT TO MAKE NUCLEAR WAR MORE QUOTE  
THINKABLE UNQUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT NOTES REFTEL B CONTAINED TYPOGRAPHICAL  
ERROR IN LAST TALKING POINT ON ESCALATION OF ARMS RACE.  
THE PHRASE QUOTE IF WE DECIDE TO EMPLOY IT UNQUOTE  
SHOULD BE CORRECTED TO READ QUOTE IF WE DECIDE TO  
DEPLOY IT UNQUOTE.

3. FYI AND AS BACKGROUND, YOU MAY WISH TO REFER TO  
STATE 163812 SENT ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS  
JULY 14, 1977, WHICH CONTAINS THE ARMS CONTROL IMPACT  
STATEMENT FOR LANCE ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD. END FYI.  
CHRISTOPHER UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, NUCLEAR BOMBS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE309371  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** EUR/RPM:DJMCCONNELL  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780035-0225  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780127/aaaaawsm.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 6ddaa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 USNATO 13089, 78 STATE 306542  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3720817  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET PROTEST ON NEUTRON BOMB  
**TAGS:** MPOL, PINS, ELAB, EI, UR  
**To:** HELSINKI  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/6ddaa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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